

#### 3.0 Highlights of Community Participation

The Department of Defense has long recognized that successful environmental restoration projects require the input of interested community residents. To that end, the Army began developing its Community Involvement Program in 1984 as the first environmental investigations were initiated. The Community Involvement Program has one primary objective: inform and involve the public with regard to site studies, proposed technologies, and ongoing remediation projects. A comprehensive Community Relations Plan was first developed in May 1990 to provide a road map for public involvement, which was further revised in May 1995. The Army has accomplished the public involvement objectives by conducting one-on-one sessions and informal group meetings, soliciting input using surveys and questionnaires, and pursuing phone contacts to identify interested citizens and organizations, assess public perceptions of the issues, and determine appropriate mechanisms for engaging in two-way communication. In addition, the Army has made available to the public the comprehensive documentation generated during the remediation process at the JARDF and eight area libraries (Table 3.0-1).

Educational outreach efforts included developing several publications that describe current investigations and available remedial technologies, making literature regarding the on-post remediation available to the public, and conducting more than 20 open houses and public meetings. In 1990, a joint Public Affairs Office (PAO) Subcommittee of the RMA Committee was formed to pool the skills and resources of public information specialists from all the Parties. The majority of fact sheets and training materials were developed by this subcommittee.

An example of a current publication is "Update," which has been distributed to approximately 125,000 households within a 10-mile radius of the installation on a quarterly basis since 1990. The focus of Update is to highlight a single, significant issue of the remediation during the preceding quarter. Past Update topics have included the various technologies considered to manage the Basin F liquid, the building of the SQI, the test-burn results of the SQI, and the release of the Proposed Plan for the On-Post Operable Unit. Along with lead stories on similar topics, the publication has also described opportunities for public involvement, including the schedules for public meetings, workshops, and tours. The Army has also published a tri-fold brochure, called "RMA Public Outreach," focusing on public outreach programs since 1994. Various topics discussed in this quarterly pamphlet include RMA technical information and history, wildlife viewing tour schedules, educational programs, and recycling programs.

Since 1988 all the Parties have made extensive efforts to ensure that the public is kept informed on all aspects of the cleanup program. More than 100 fact sheets about topics ranging from historical information to site remediation have been developed and made available to the public. All educational materials were developed and coordinated with all the Parties. In addition, ATSDR has provided public health information and support, including health consultation related to the Basin F IRA, a Public Health Assessment of RMA, and other health-related studies.

The Army held one of its largest public open houses in January 1994, following the release and distribution of the draft Detailed Analysis of Alternatives report for the On-Post Operable Unit. The purpose of the event was to provide the public one-on-one experience with federal, state, and local professionals who could explain in simple terms the views of their organizations regarding the various aspects of the remediation. It was vital to the success of the open house that the organizations, although not in total agreement with the technologies being proposed for the final remedy, were available to present their respective opinions.

Regulatory agencies represented at the event were EPA, CDPHE, and Tri-County Health Department. The two responsible parties, the Army and Shell, were also present. Members of USFWS were also available to express their opinions on the various proposed remedies from the standpoint of habitat preservation. Each organization created displays that described the organization's position and staffed these displays with experts available to answer questions from the public. Videos were shown that detailed, in easy-to-understand terms, the various technologies outlined in the draft Detailed Analysis of Alternatives report.

As part of the open house, the Army offered site tours of RMA to the 1,000 citizens who attended. The tours, which were accompanied by technical experts who explained the ongoing remedial operations, provided visitors with a better understanding of the size of the installation and the degree of contamination at various locations as well as its potential as a national wildlife refuge. The Army and USFWS cooperate in implementing and supporting community involvement activities regarding wildlife/habitat during remediation. Remediation activities will take into account RMA's end use as a national wildlife refuge, which fulfills the provision of the FFA that states it is a goal of the Organizations to make significant portions of the site available for beneficial public use. In October 1992, in conjunction with the future goal of beneficial public use and in recognition of the unique urban wildlife resources provided by RMA, President George Bush signed the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act, making RMA a national wildlife refuge following EPA certification that required response actions have been appropriately completed.

Prior to April 1994, various public meetings and workshops were coordinated with interested citizens through a Technical Review Committee (TRC), which was established under FFA and CERCLA guidelines. The committee, established at RMA in 1989, was comprised of representatives from local health and regulatory agencies, community residents, and the local government. In November 1993, the TRC opened its meetings to the public.

In April 1994, the Department of Defense directed military installations involved in environmental remediation to transition the TRCs into Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs). The RAB at RMA serves as a forum to exchange information and establish open dialog among the communities, regulatory agencies, the Army, and Shell. In less than 1 year, the RAB modified how public input was obtained and incorporated into the CERCLA process for

selecting a remedy for RMA. For example, one of the primary changes included making the JARDF more user-friendly. Millions of pages of documents relating to RMA history, mission, remediation, and wildlife were made available to the public via a computerized optical disk system. Citizens may access volumes of research material on literally any subject relating to RMA simply by keying in a word or series of words. The system then allows users to select a specific document or page of a document for further review. The JARDF allows users to photocopy up to 100 pages of RMA-related material at no charge.

The Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) of RMA was formed with the assistance of EPA and CDPHE in 1994. Although the RAB is the officially recognized citizen advisory board for RMA, the SSAB serves as another forum for community concerns. Many of the members serving on the SSAB also serve on the RAB. More information on the SSAB can be obtained from CDPHE at (303) 692-3327.

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) was awarded to Citizens Against Contamination (CAC) by EPA in 1990. CAC was formed in 1985 and has been monitoring all aspects of the remediation at RMA and has provided a crucial role for public participation in the decision-making process. The TAG has provided funds to CAC so that an outside consultant could be hired to assist with the interpretation of technical information. In 1995, an additional \$50,000 grant was awarded to CAC for continued technical assistance.

Members of the public and local authorities participated in an extensive series of meetings during 1994–95 regarding the remediation of RMA. These meetings provided the basis for negotiations among the Parties that led to the Conceptual Remedy in June 1995 and the Detailed Analysis of Alternatives report and Proposed Plan in October 1995.

The Proposed Plan was released for public review on October 16, 1995. On November 18, 1995 the Parties held a public meeting, attended by approximately 50 members of the public, to obtain public comment on the Proposed Plan. As a result of requests at this meeting, the period for submitting written comments on the plan was extended 1 month, concluding on January 19, 1996.

The Army also regularly issues press releases and provides access to hotlines that relate up-to-date information about remedial operations, and publishes brochures on selected topics, environment/wildlife tours, and school programs. Army representatives and public outreach specialists from EPA, USFWS, Shell, and CDPHE also visit area libraries, schools, and grocery stores and distribute flyers and brochures regarding the public meetings, the remediation process, and recreational activities available at RMA. The PAO Subcommittee has also established an active speaker's bureau program that serves as a focal point to communicate with civic organizations. RMA has also established an Internet World Wide Web home page (<http://www.pmrma-www.army.mil>).

**Table 3.0-1 Area Libraries Holding RMA Documentation****Page 1 of 1**

Library	Address	Telephone Number
RMA Joint Administrative Record Document Facility <sup>1</sup>	Building 135, Room 16 72nd Avenue and Quebec Street Commerce City, CO 80022	(303) 289-0362
Adams County Library Brighton Branch	575 S. Eighth Avenue Brighton, CO 80601	(303) 659-2572
Aurora Public Library	14949 East Alameda Drive Aurora, CO 80012	(303) 340-2290
Commerce City Public Library	7185 Monaco Street Commerce City, CO 80022	(303) 287-0063
Denver Public Library	10 West 14th Avenue Parkway Denver, CO 80204	(303) 640-6200
EPA Library	999 18th Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202	(303) 312-6937
Lakewood Public Library	10200 West 20th Avenue Lakewood, CO 80215	(303) 232-9507
Montbello Public Library	12955 Albrook Drive Denver, CO 80239	(303) 373-0767
Park Hill Library <sup>2</sup>	4705 Montview Denver, CO 80207	(303) 331-4063

<sup>1</sup> The entire administrative record is accessible through the JARDF.

<sup>2</sup> Only the Proposed Plan, Detailed Analysis of Alternatives report, and ROD can be found at Park Hill Library.